

**CITY OF VAN ALSTYNE
WW COLLECTION SYSTEM OVERFLOW
FEBRUARY 7, 2023**

This press release is being issued in accordance with regulatory requirements by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The City of Van Alstyne is providing this based on identification of a spill from the wastewater collection system on February 7, 2023.

On February 7, 2023, City of Van Alstyne utility crews discovered a spill of untreated wastewater from the collection system located east of State Highway 5 on the north side of FM 3133.

The following information is provided as required by TCEQ regulations Chapter 319, Rule 319.303:

- The spill is from a manhole in the wastewater collection system
- The wastewater collection system is owned and operated by the City of Van Alstyne
- For further information regarding this notice, contact Lane Jones, City Manager at 903-482-5426
- The location is at a wastewater manhole located on the north side of FM 3133 approximately 1,200-feet east of SH 5
- The spill was noticed at approximately 9:00 AM on February 7, 2023
- The estimated volume of the spill is 790,000 gallons
- The spill is from domestic wastewater flows
- The area impacted is a wet-weather creek located north of FM 3133 flowing through an uninhabited area of dense trees & brush for an estimated distance of approximately 4,400-feet – NOTE: this is the same creek that the City of Van Alstyne wastewater treatment discharges to
- The suspected cause of the spill is a blockage of the flow located at or near the manhole identified – Crews have begun work to identify and repair the problem – repairs will be completed as soon as possible
- Actions as a result of the spill
 - The TCEQ regional office was notified once the spill was identified
 - Local officials have been notified including the City Manager and the Mayor of Van Alstyne
 - Following repair of the damaged system, clean-up activities will be made by utility crews from the City of Van Alstyne

Additional information will be provided to the TCEQ as required following the completion of repairs to the wastewater collection system.

TCEQ Chapter 319 – Rule 319.303 regarding notification of a spill exceeding 100,000 gallons – note other issues such as proximity to water supply do not apply in this circumstance

(a) Persons responsible for a wastewater spill must ensure notice complies with subsections (b) and (c) of this section. Responsible persons may contact the commission to obtain a template which may be used in the event of a wastewater spill.

(b) For all wastewater spills as referenced in §319.302(b) of this title (relating to Notification Requirements) the notice must contain the following:

(1) one of the following statements:

(A) a spill from a wastewater treatment facility has occurred; or

(B) a spill from a collection facility has occurred;

(2) the facility name;

(3) person to contact for further information;

(4) the location of the spill;

(5) the estimated date and time of the spill;

(6) the estimated volume of the spill (number of gallons);

(7) the type of the spill (domestic, industrial, etc.);

(8) a description of the area potentially affected, including a down-gradient and lateral distance from the spill site;

(9) the suspected cause of the spill; and

(10) a list of actions that have been taken including, but not limited to:

(A) notification of:

(i) appropriate local government officials; and

(ii) the TCEQ regional office;

(B) containment of the spill;

(C) increased monitoring of water supply systems; and

(D) initiation or completion of clean up activities.

(c) If the wastewater spill meets the conditions of §319.302(b)(2) and/or (b)(3) of this title then the notice must also contain the following precautionary statements:

(1) Persons using private drinking water supply wells located within 1/2-mile of the spill site or within the potentially affected area should use only water that has been distilled or boiled at a rolling boil for at least one minute for all personal uses including drinking, cooking, bathing, and tooth brushing. Individuals with private water wells should have their well water tested and disinfected, if necessary, prior to discontinuing distillation or boiling.

(2) Persons who purchase water from a public water supply may contact their water supply distributor to determine if the water is safe for personal use.

(3) The public should avoid contact with waste material, soil, or water in the area potentially affected by the spill.

(4) If the public comes into contact with waste material, soil, or water potentially affected by the spill, they should bathe and wash clothes thoroughly as soon as possible.

Rule 319.302 regarding spill

(a) The owner of a facility must designate a responsible individual to comply with this subchapter.

(b) In addition to the noncompliance notification to the commission required by §305.125(9) of this title (relating to Standard Permit Conditions) and any notification required under Chapter 327 of this title (relating to Spill Prevention and Control), the owner of a facility, through its responsible individual, must notify appropriate local government officials and the local media (see §319.301 of this title (relating to Definitions)) whenever one of the following types of spills occurs from the facility:

(1) a spill, regardless of volume, that the facility owner knows or has reason to know, will adversely affect a public or private source of drinking water;

(2) a spill with a volume of 50,000 gallons or more where one or more of the following conditions also exists:

(A) the spill occurs within 1/2-mile of a public or private source of drinking water;

(B) the spill occurs within 1/2-mile of a private drinking water well which is located within 1/2-mile of a public water supply well;

(C) the spill occurs within 1/2-mile up-gradient of a surface water intake of a public or private source of drinking water;

(D) the spill occurs in an active groundwater recharge area;

(E) the spill occurs up-gradient and within 1/2-mile of a karst terrain or shallow alluvial well that is a source of drinking water;

(3) a spill of 100,000 gallons or more.

(c) The responsible individual must issue the notice as quickly as possible, but not later than 24 hours after the facility becomes aware of the spill. The notice may be hand-delivered, sent by facsimile, e-mail, or by phone with follow-up written notice. The contents of the notice must comply with §319.303 of this title (relating to Notice to Local Officials and Local Media).

(d) Within 48 hours of providing notice to appropriate local government officials and local media, the responsible individual must provide to the commission regional office in whose region the spill occurred a copy of the notice, the date notice was provided to local officials and local media, and a list of notice recipients.